

Marshfield and Plainfield Energy and Climate Change committee
Monthly meeting minutes, September 10th, 2018, 7:00pm
Downstairs library area

Committee members in attendance: Anne Miller, Nick Seifert, Becky Wigg, Wes Cate

Members of the public in attendance: Michael Billingsly

- Select a facilitator
 - Becky volunteered
- Public comment
 - None
- Announcements
 - The second half of The Weather Machine will be on September 26th, 7:00pm
- Agenda modification
 - Anne would like to talk about project to buy books and movies for the library on Climate Change
- Approval of previous minutes
 - Motioned and seconded to approve the August meeting minutes. Approved.
- Business
 - Act 174 update.
 - Nick spoke with Bonnie at CVRPC and got some updates last week:
 - The grant CVRPC had to assist Marshfield was not extended, but CVRPC will help us regardless.
 - Bonnie will be reviewing our submitted draft, along with the updated town plan (which the PC has submitted) to see if it complies with Act 174.
 - Bonnie also noted that regardless of how we implement this, by addendum or by changing the town plan, this would have to go through the public comment process.
 - Nick suggested that once we get feedback from Bonnie and understand the scope of the changes needed, we should talk to the Planning Commission about how they want to proceed on getting this updated.
 - Discussion about the Marshfield Dam.
 - Selectboard meeting (8/21)
 - The Energy Committee presented to the selectboard at this meeting.
 - Becky thought that they were receptive to our presentation, though a bit defensive about the planning. Rich Baker agreed to file on behalf of Marshfield to become a party to the PUC case.
 - PUC pretrial hearing (8/27) 10:30am
 - Michael discussed the hearing and related topics.
 - The hearing officer pointed out this had arisen due to concerns from Plainfield, and was now moving to a different phase where some of those things can be evaluated.
 - After some local politics, it ended up that the Plainfield Selectboard became a party to the PUC case, with Michael also representing Plainfield for the Hazard mitigation committee.
 - Michael discussed with someone familiar with other dams in the state about the emergency spillway construction, and it sounds like this is unique to the Marshfield dam. They intend to file for discovery around this to get GMP on the record about this type of emergency spillway.
 - The period for people to file for party status is up on 9/15, and then the next dates and schedule will be set by the hearing officer.
 - Plainfield will be updating their emergency action plan for the construction period.
 - The hope is to require the emergency spillway to be fixed prior to conducting work on the service spillway. (This would require removing the coffer dam covering the service spillway, first)
 - As a side note, the generating station does not have any kind of diversion pipe which allows them to divert all water from the 6' penstock pipe directly to the Winooski river. Without this the generator may burn up if they are trying to use the penstock to regulate the water level.
 - The case number from the Epuc site, for people to subscribe to updates, is: 18-2549-PET.
 - Michael mentioned that Rich Baker should know about the public meeting that occurred in October of 2017, and that there is a recording of the event.
 - Nick will follow up with Michael about getting a link to this. Nick will then share it with Rich.

- Climate change discussion follow up meetings (if needed).
 - Twinfield solar and weatherization update (if needed).
 - This group went to the Schoolboard meeting last week. Anne attended.
 - The schoolboard agreed to let Rich do some investigation, and they would let him present his findings afterwards.
 - Anne thinks that Rich may need some help to get spreadsheets created for this.
 - Nick will reach out about this.
 - Wes mentioned that the school consolidation efforts going on may make this effort moot, as there may not be.
- Discussion about grants or money for charging stations (if needed).
 - Grant details are live on the website, applications due by November 30th, 2018.
 - <http://accd.vermont.gov/community-development/funding-incentives/electric-vehicle-supply-equipment-evse-grant-program>
 - Nick will look into the grant requirements and see what is needed.
 - Becky said she would also take a look at this.
- Presentation from solar distributors and other Foliage Festival things
 - The committee organizing the foliage festival is enthusiastic about having solar distributors/installers set up. Date is September 30th.
 - Wes has some communication going on with SunCommon.
 - Anne asks that if they are coming, could they bring their bouncy house as well.
 - Wes will get in touch with Joel about this and find out.
 - Wes also has some communication with other developers, but does not have commitments yet. Possibles are:
 - Catamount solar
 - Go-Solar
 - Discussion about the EC paying for table fees for non-profit organizations like Capstone. For profit organizations like SunCommon should pay unless this seems like a deciding factor for them.
- Plainfield update
 - Michael giving a brief update.
 - Every fall the state has an Emergency Preparedness meeting. This was the first year that there were presentations on Dam Safety, Year by Year evaluation of climate change, and Emergency Operation Centers.
 - General trend of climate changes in VT is for higher accumulation of rain, and larger rainfall events.
- Climate Change Movies and Books for the Library
 - Anne bought a movie called The Breath of Life.
 - She has a list of books and movies and is curious to know how much is OK to spend. Previously the committee has said \$50.
 - Nick made a motion for Anne to spend up to \$100 total on this project.
 - Becky seconded.
 - Unanimously approved
- Draft agenda for next meeting
 - Select a facilitator
 - Public comment
 - Announcements
 - Agenda modification
 - Approval of previous minutes
 - Business
 - Act 174 update.
 - Fall Foliage festival update
 - Update on The Weather Machine presentation
 - Discussion about the Marshfield Dam.
 - Climate change discussion follow up meetings (if needed).
 - Twinfield solar and weatherization update (if needed).
 - Discussion about grants or money for charging station grant application.
 - Update on book/video purchases (if needed)
 - Plainfield update
 - Draft agenda for next meeting